

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02914 172326Z

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CS

SUBJ: COSTA RICAN CANDIDACY FOR SC SEAT

REFS: SAN JOSE 2861; USUN 2824 (NOTAL)

1. COSTA RICAN PERM REP MOLINA DISCUSSED WITH MISOFF AUG. 17
COSTA RICAN CANDIDACY FOR SC SEAT BEGINNING JAN. 1974.

2. MOLINA SAID COSTA RICA NOW ASSURED OF RECEIVING LA GROUP
ENDORSEMENT AT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUG. 27.
MOLINA VERY WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT REPORT THAT RADICAL ARAB
DELEGATIONS URGING NON-ALIGNED TO VOTE AGAINST COSTA RICA IN
GA PLENARY IN ORDER TO DENY IT NECESSARY 2/3 VOTE AND TO FORCE
LA'S TO PRESENT CANDIDATE. ACCORDING TO MOLINA, BASIS OF
ARAB OPPOSITION IS COSTA RICA'S SUPPOSEDLY OVERFRIENDLY RE-
LATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL.

3. MOLINA SAID COSTA RICA WHILE MAINTAINING ITS BASIC POLICY
OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL, BEGINNING VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AMONG
AFRO-ASIANS TO WIN SUPPORT FOR SC SEAT. COSTA RICAN AMB. TO
SPAIN, WHO IS OF LEBANESE DESCENT, PLANNING TRIP TO MOROCCO AND
EGYPT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS AND OBTAIN PROMISE OF UN VOTE.
COSTA RICAN FONMIN HOPING TO INCLUDE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE
AT END OF ROMANIAN PRES. FORTHCOMING VISIT A ROMANIAN
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICAN CANDIDACY. FONMIN ALSO
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02914 172326Z

WEIGHING PROS AND CONS OF DISPATCH OF OBSERVER TO FORTHCOMING

NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN ALGIERS IN ORDER TO LOBBY FOR VOTES IN UNGA. (MISOFF NOTED THAT COSTA RICAN OBSERVER AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE TO COMMIT COSTA RICA ON HOST OF ISSUES RELATED TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN RETURN FOR PROMISE OF SUPPORT.)

4. MOLINA MADE VERY LOW KEY AND VERY INDIRECT PITCH FOR US LOBBYING ON BEHALF COSTA RICAN CANDIDACY. MISOFF REPLIED THAT USG TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTS REGIONAL CANDIDATES AND USUN APPRECIATES POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WHICH COSTA RICA WILL MAKE TO SC. MISOFF NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE OPPOSING COSTA RICA ON GROUNDS OF ITS ALLEGED PRO ISRAEL SYMPATHIES MIGHT OPPOSE CR CANDIDACY EVEN MORE VIGOROUSLY IF US WERE OPENLY TO CAMPAIGN FOR COSTA RICA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE'S COMMENTS ON THIS POINT.

5. MOLINA SAID HE HAD HOPED TO RESIGN HIS POST IN NOVEMBER IN ORDER TO RETURN TO COSTA RICA TO CAMPAIGN ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ODUBER, HIS FORMER LAW PARTNER. HE ASTONISHED TO LEARN HOWEVER THAT IF COSTA RICA ENTERS SC, IT WILL BECOME PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1974. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, HE CONCLUDED, COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE RELUCTANT TO REPLACE HIM.
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